

# **Notice to Voters in Columbia County, Georgia of Intent to Early Process Absentee Ballots Prior to the Closing of the Polls for the November 3, 2020 General Election**

You are hereby notified that it is the intent of the Columbia County Board of Elections to begin early processing of paper absentee ballots cast during the November 3, 2020 General Election beginning at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 and will continue until 5:00 PM each week day until finished. This will take place at building G3, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Evans Government Complex Center. Processing paper absentee ballots will also resume on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 tentatively at 10:00 AM and will continue until completed.

The process of early processing of absentee ballots shall be open to the view of the public. Monitors for each political party and nonpartisan candidate may be appointed by notifying the Board of Elections Office in writing prior to being allowed to monitor the process. Monitors and observers may not in any way interfere with the process. All monitors and observers are prohibited from:

- interfering with the process
- using or bringing in to the room any photographic devices
- engaging in campaigning
- taking any action that endangers the secrecy and security of the ballots
- tallying, tabulating, estimating, or attempting to tally, tabulate, or estimate, whether partial or otherwise, any of the votes on the absentee ballots cast, and
- communicating any information that they see, whether intentionally or inadvertently, about any ballot, vote, or selection to anyone other than to an election official who needs the information to carry out their duties

The early processing of absentee ballots before the closing of the polls shall be a controlled process in order to maintain the secrecy of all ballots and to protect against the collection or disclosure of any balloting information before the close of the polls at 7:00 P.M. on Election Day.

For additional information, you may contact the Board of Elections Office at (706) 868-3355.